
Georgia Board of Nursing



Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

Introduction

The Georgia Board of Nursing ("Board") was created on August 22, 1907 by an act of the Georgia General Assembly.

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nurses, registered professional nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs.

The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing and registered professional education and practice.

The Board is comprised of thirteen members appointed by the Governor: two registered nursing educators, one practical nursing educator, two registered nurses employed in nursing service administration, one registered nurse employed in nursing home administration or nursing service administration, two advanced practice registered nurses, one additional registered nurse, three licensed practical nurses, and one consumer member.

The Board develops rules and regulations that set the standards for nursing practice and education, provide the minimum qualifications for licensure, and ensure that the disciplinary process is implemented in a fashion that guarantees due process and public protection.

The Board meets in odd numbered months for three consecutive days and in even numbered months by teleconference. Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

Board Members and Staff

Darrell W. Thompson, RN, DNP, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC –President
Registered Nursing Education Member

Tammy Bryant, RN, MSN – Vice President
Practical Nursing Education Member

Tracey Blalock, RN, MSN, MBA, NEA-BC
Nursing Service Administration Member

Candice Broce, JD
Consumer Member

Irene “Renie” Cordell, RN
Nursing Service Administration Member

Fredettena “Tina” Fletcher, LPN
Licensed Practical Nurse Member

Linda G. Floyd, RN, EdD, PMHNP-BC
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member

Merry Fort, RN
Nursing Service Administration Member

Holly Free, RN, MSN, CRNA
Registered Nursing Education Member

K. Andrea Phipps, LPN
Licensed Practical Nurse Member

Jennifer Pipkin, RN, MSN, CRNA
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member

Ashlan Porter, RN,
Registered Nurse Member

Jim Cleghorn, MA
Executive Director

Overview

As of June 30, 2020, the Board had record of the following active licenses:

Licensed Practical Nurse – 30,456

Licensed Practical Nurse – Multistate – 4,616

Advanced Practice - CRNA – 2,001

Advanced Practice - CNM - 599

Advanced Practice - NP – 13,356

Advanced Practice - CNS/PMH - 185

Advanced Practice - CNS - 158

Registered Professional Nurse - 130,511

Registered Professional Nurse – Multistate – 26,723

Committees of the Board

Investigative Committee

Members of the Board comprise two investigative committees. The investigative committees review complaints, investigations and other information to determine if a violation of the Nurse Practice Act has occurred and to make recommendations to the Board regarding disciplinary actions.

APRN Committee

The APRN Committee is comprised of twelve (12) authorized APRNs: two certified nurse midwives, three clinical nurse specialists, three certified registered nurse anesthetists and four nurse practitioners. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of advanced practice registered nurses.

Nursing Education Committee

The Nursing Education Committee is comprised of twelve (12) registered nurses involved in registered and practical nursing education: three practical nursing education program members, two associate degree nursing education program members, three baccalaureate degree nursing education program members, one master's degree nursing education program member, one public nursing education program member, one private nursing education program member and one at-large member. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of registered and practical nursing education programs.

Nursing Practice Committee

The Nursing Practice Committee is comprised of twelve (12) registered nurses involved in current nursing practice from a variety of practice settings. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board, reviews and analyzes practice trends and issues for nurses in Georgia and recommends programs, policies and strategies to enhance the practice of nursing.

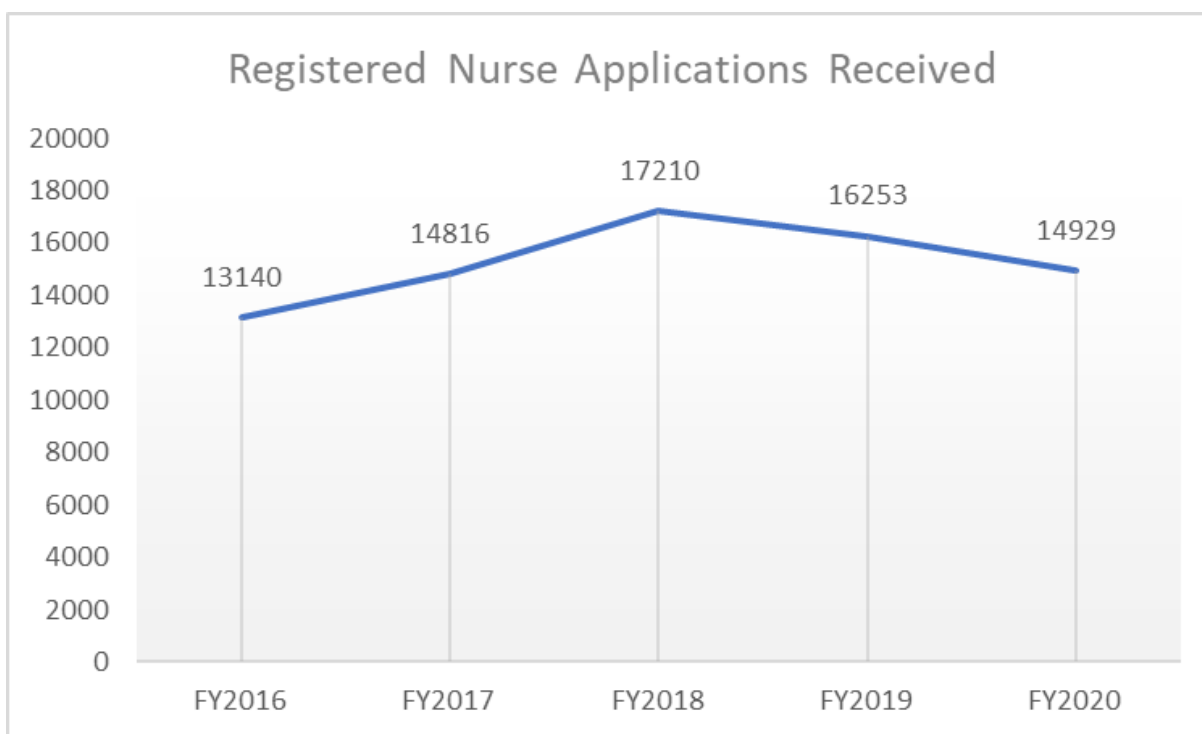
Licensing

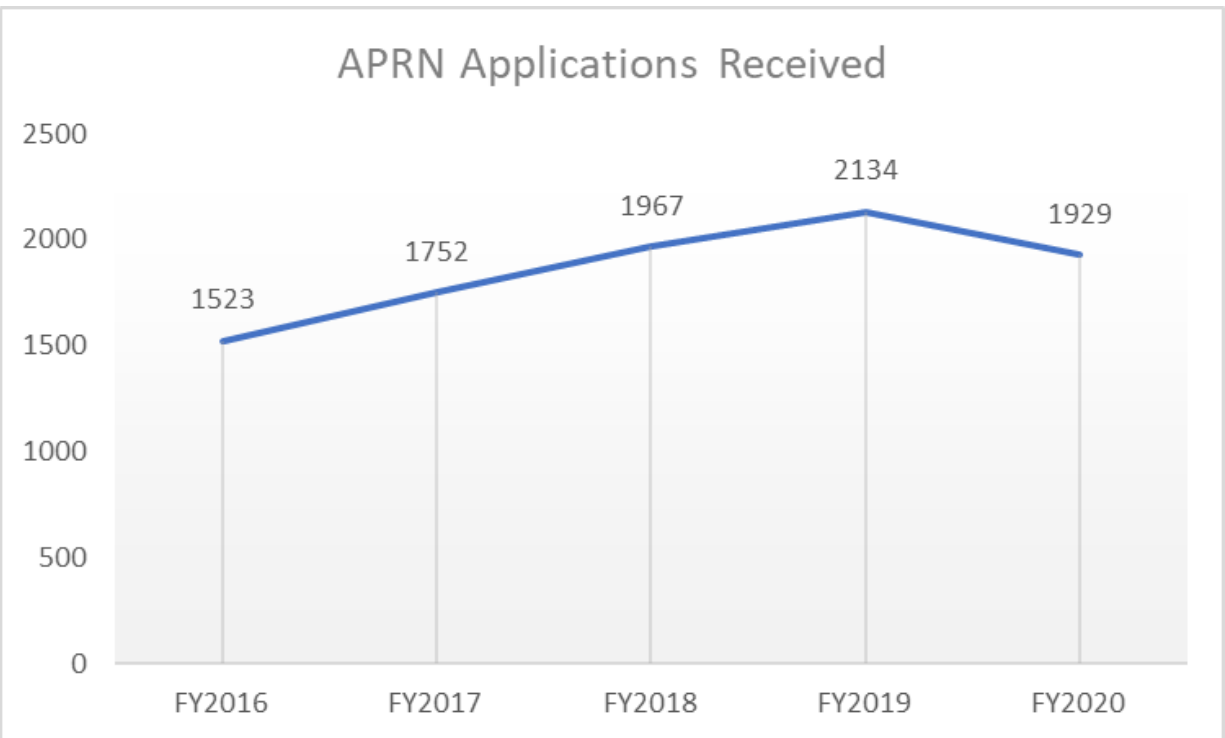
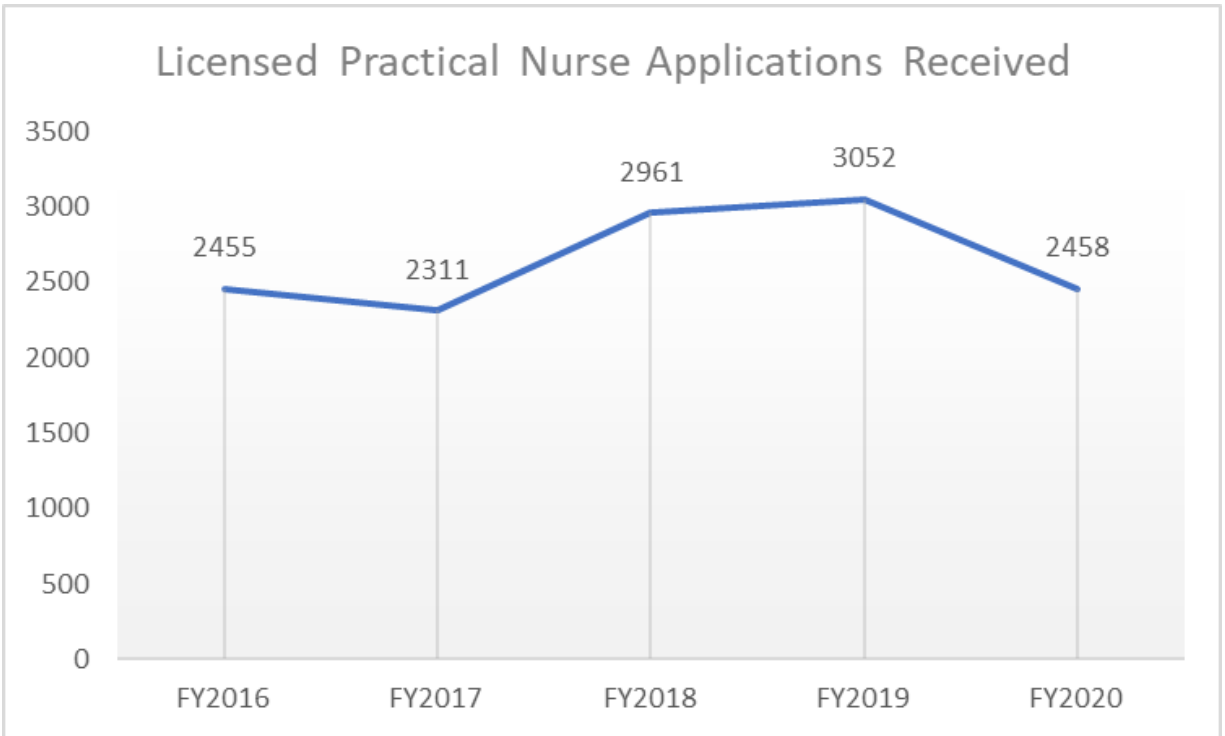
The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing, registered nursing and advanced practice registered nursing practice. This is accomplished by ensuring that licensed individuals meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for licensure and have the necessary education, training and skill to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

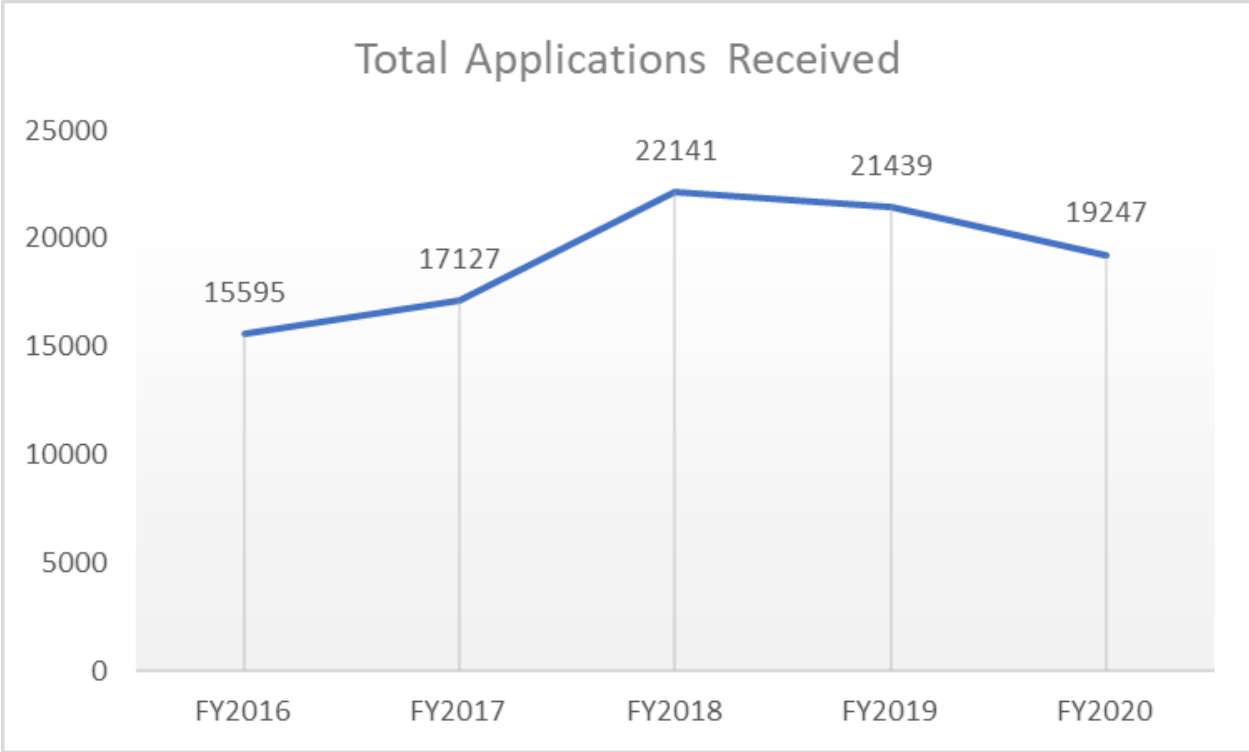
In FY2020, the Board received 19,247 (14,929 RN, 1,929 APRN and 2,458 LPN) applications for licensure. This number represents a 10.2% decrease in applications from FY2019 (21,439). The number of applications received has increased 23.4% since FY2016 (15,595).

Of the 19,247 applications received, 5,515 (4,824 RN and 691 LPN) applications were submitted to convert an existing single state license to a multistate license.

Applications Received from FY2016 through FY2020

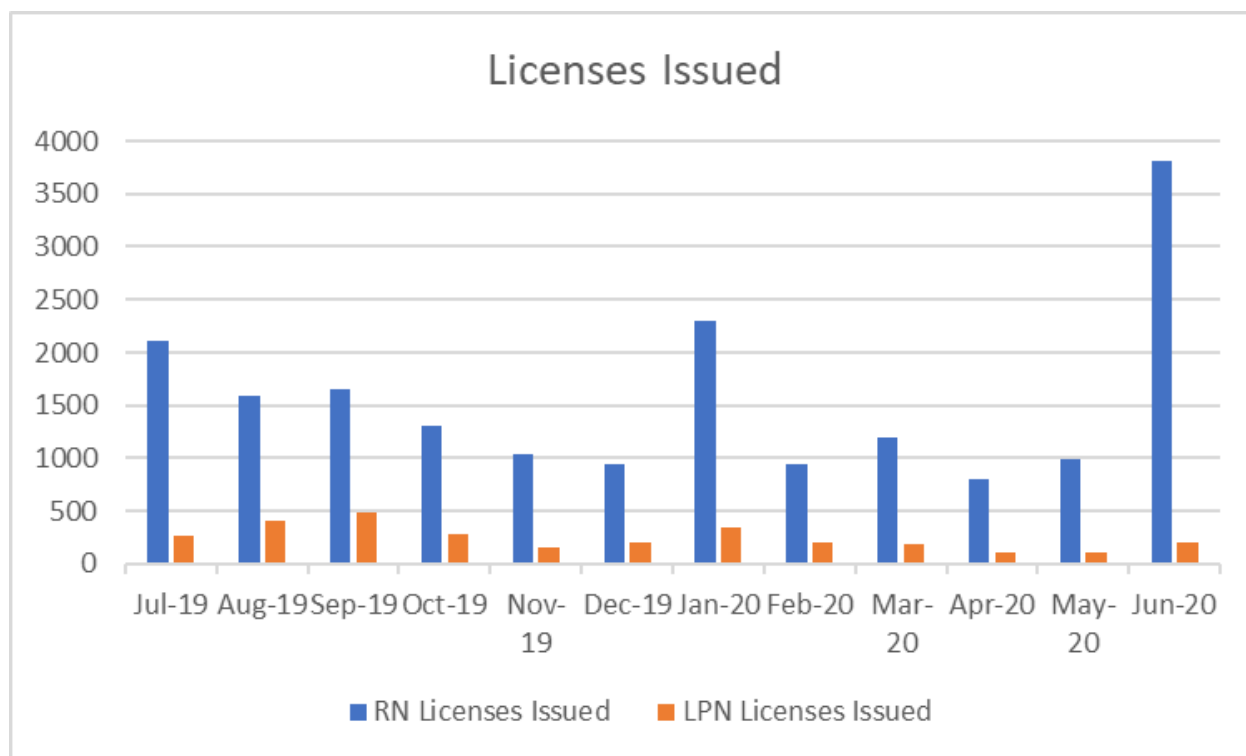






In FY2020, the Board issued 23,016 licenses (19,973 RN and 3,043 LPN). This represents an 8.2% decrease in licenses issued since FY2019 (25,066). The number of licenses issued has increased 75.1% since FY2016 (13,146).

Licenses Issued



As a result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, the Board issued temporary permits to licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses who had active, unencumbered licenses in another U.S. jurisdiction. Between March 18, 2020, and June 30, 2020, the Board issued 607 temporary permits to registered and practical nurses and 100 temporary permits to advanced practice registered nurses.

Additionally, the Board issued temporary permits to individuals who had graduated from approved nursing education programs on or after December 1, 2019, who had not taken NCLEX. Between March 18, 2020, and June 30, 2020, the Board issued 736 temporary permits to new graduates of approved nursing education programs. The temporary permit to practice as a GN or GPN, is not renewable, is valid for the duration of the Public Health Emergency as declared by the Governor and a period of not more than 60 days, or upon receipt of a notice of failing the examination from the Board, whichever date is the earliest.

The new graduate who was issued a temporary permit to practice nursing as a GN or GPN pending the results of the licensing examination must work under the direct supervision of either a licensed practical or a registered professional nurse if a GPN or a registered professional nurse only if a GN, who is physically present in the facility or practice setting and who is readily available to the GN or GPN for consultation and assistance. If the facility is organized into multiple units that are geographically distanced from each other, then the supervising nurse must be working on the same unit to which the GN or GPN is assigned. The GN or GPN shall not be placed in supervisory or charge positions and shall not work in independent practice settings.

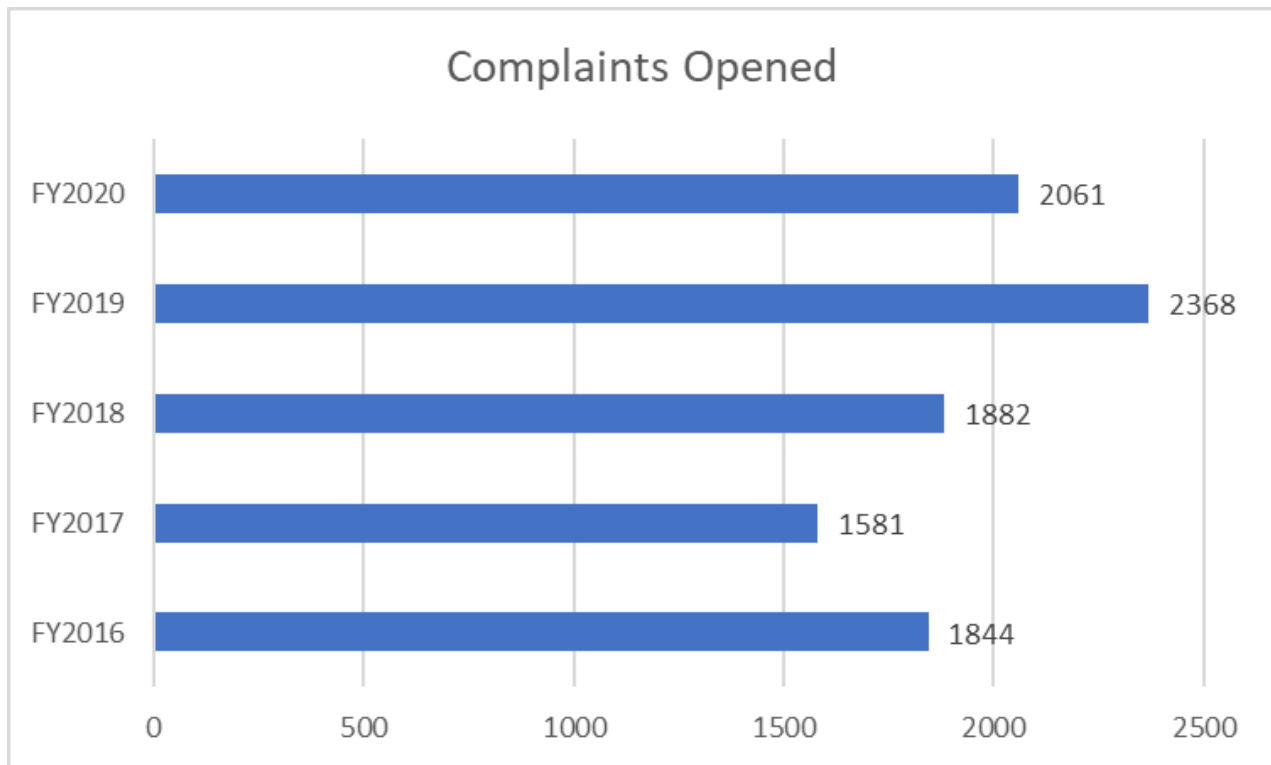
The nurse administrator of facilities that employ Graduate Nurses or Graduate Practical Nurses must ensure that the GN or GPN has a valid temporary authorization to practice as a GN or GPN pending the results of the licensing examination, has scheduled a date to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN, and does not continue to practice after expiration of the temporary permit or receipt of a notice of failing the examination from the Board, whichever date is earlier.

Enforcement

To fulfill its statutory mission to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare, the Board is responsible for enforcing the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and Board rules used for the regulation of the nursing profession in Georgia. This is accomplished by reviewing, investigating and taking action on complaints submitted to the Board regarding the practice of licensed nurses in Georgia.

In FY2020, the Board opened 2,061 complaints. This represents a 13% decrease in complaints opened since FY2019 (2,368). The number of complaints received has increased 11.8% since FY2016 (1,844).

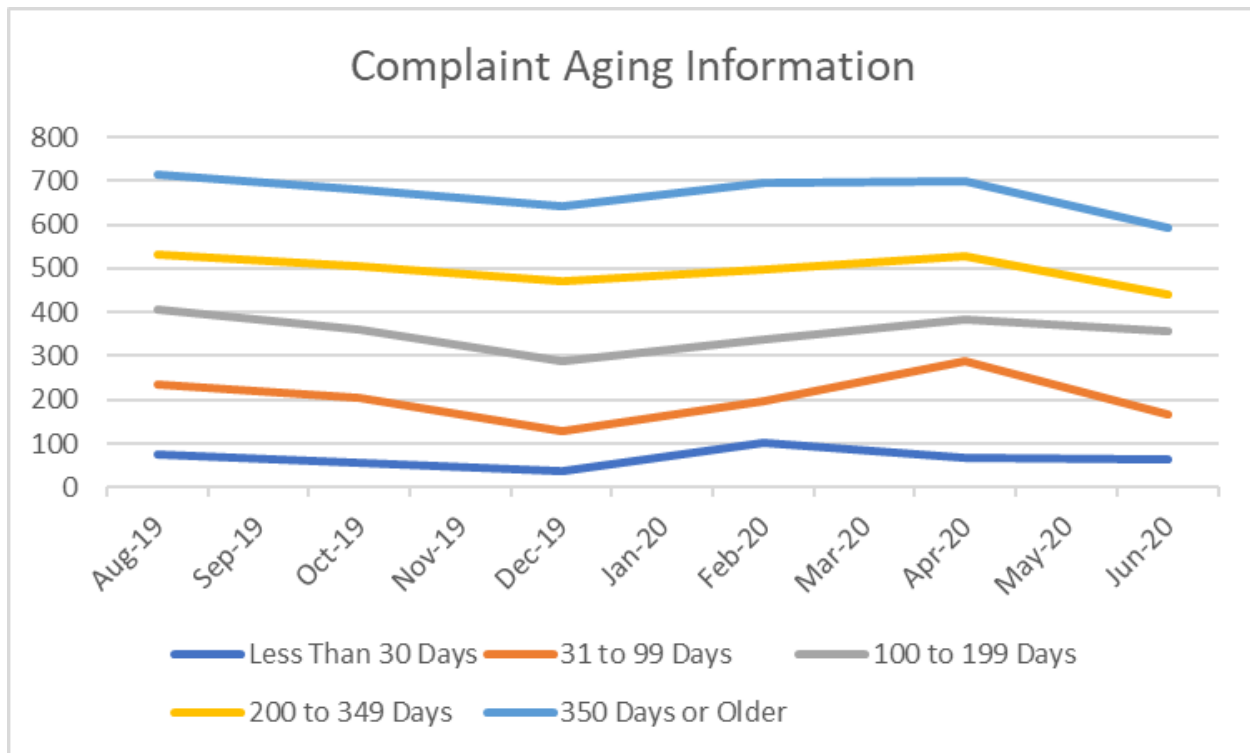
Complaints Opened by Fiscal Year



As of June 30, 2020, the Board had 587 open complaints. This represents a 10.5% decrease in open cases since June 2019 (656).

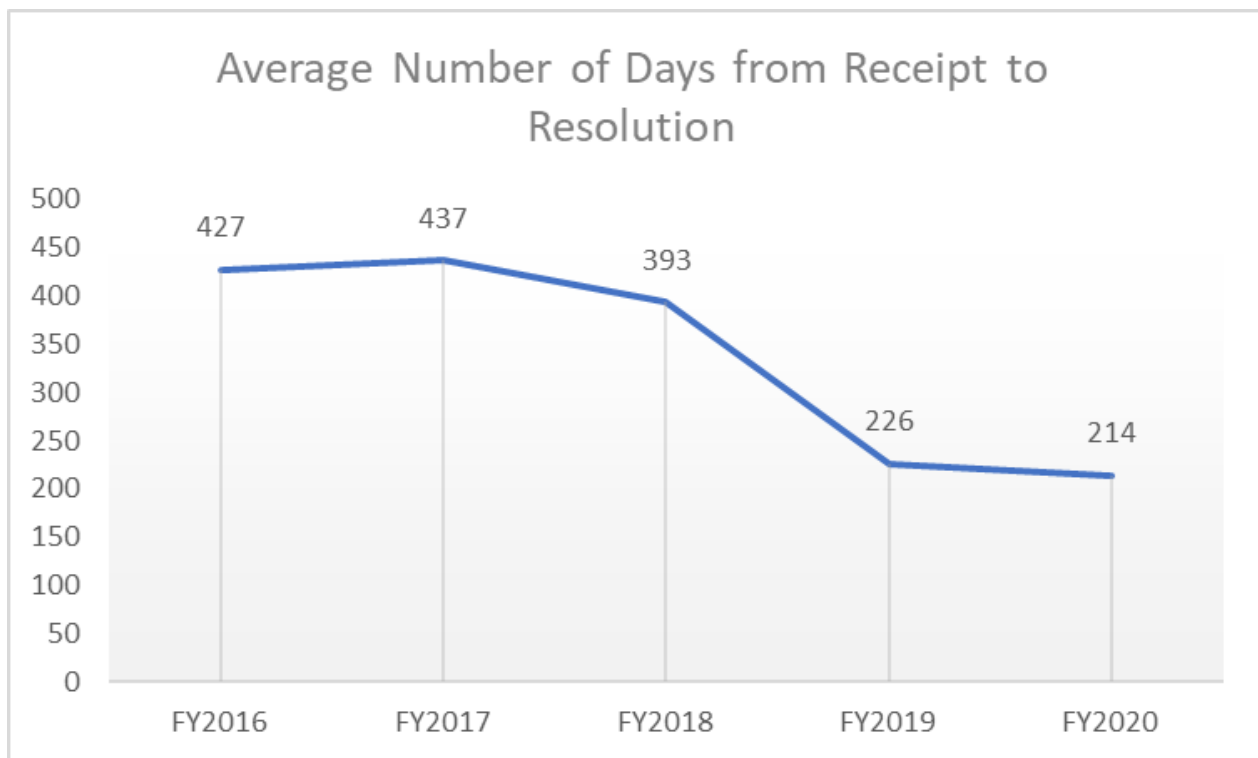
The Board tracks complaint aging information by tabulating the age of cases every two months in preparation for the Board meetings.

Complaint Aging Information



The Board tracks the total number of days a complaint aged from receipt to resolution. In FY2020, the average number of days a complaint aged decreased by 5.3% (214). The average number of days a complaint aged from receipt to resolution has decreased 49.9% since FY2016 (427).

Average Number of Days from Receipt to Resolution



Education

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs. This is accomplished by reviewing proposals for new nursing education programs and ensuring that the institution has the components required in Board rules to open a successful nursing education program and by reviewing existing nursing education programs and ensuring compliance with all Board regulations.

Nursing Education Programs					
	Approval Status				
Programs	Developmental	Initial	Full	Conditional	Total
LPN	0	1	19	3	23
RN (ASN)	0	2	23	3	28
RN (BSN)	0	1	25	5	31
RN (MSN)	0	1	1	0	2
Total	0	5	68	11	84